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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-7 (Cancelled).

8. (New) A fuel injection device (22) for an internal combustion engine, comprising
- a housing (30),
  - at least one valve element (36) which cooperates with a valve seat (58) on an injection end of the housing (30)
  - at least two fuel outlet conduits (68) in the housing associated with the valve element (36), and
  - an annular groove (66) providing fluid communication between the fuel outlet conduits (68) associated with the valve element (36).
9. (New) The fuel injection device (22) of claim 8, wherein the annular groove (66; 66a) is embodied in the housing (30).
10. (New) The fuel injection device (22) of claim 8, wherein the annular groove (66; 66b) is embodied in the valve element (36).

11. **(New)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 8, wherein the annular groove (66) comprises one annular groove (66a) embodied in the housing (30), and a further annular groove (66b) embodied in the valve element (36).
12. **(New)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 8, wherein the annular groove (66) has an approximately semicircular cross section.
13. **(New)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 9, wherein the annular groove (66) has an approximately semicircular cross section.
14. **(New)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 10, wherein the annular groove (66) has an approximately semicircular cross section.
15. **(New)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 11, wherein the annular groove (66) has an approximately semicircular cross section.
16. **(New)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 8, wherein the annular groove has an asymmetrical cross section, with a lesser total curvature upstream of the fuel outlet conduits than downstream.
17. **(New)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 9, wherein the annular groove has an asymmetrical cross section, with a lesser total curvature upstream of the fuel outlet conduits than downstream.

18. **(New)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 10, wherein the annular groove has an asymmetrical cross section, with a lesser total curvature upstream of the fuel outlet conduits than downstream.

19. **(New)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 8, wherein the fuel injection device (22) comprises at least two coaxial valve elements (34, 36), and the annular groove (66) is present in the region of the fuel outlet conduits (68) of the radially outer valve element (36), and the fuel outlet conduits (64) of the radially inner valve element (34) begin at a central blind hole (62) which is formed on the injection end of the housing (30).

20. **(New)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 9, wherein the fuel injection device (22) comprises at least two coaxial valve elements (34, 36), and the annular groove (66) is present in the region of the fuel outlet conduits (68) of the radially outer valve element (36), and the fuel outlet conduits (64) of the radially inner valve element (34) begin at a central blind hole (62) which is formed on the injection end of the housing (30).

21. **(New)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 10, wherein the fuel injection device (22) comprises at least two coaxial valve elements (34, 36), and the annular groove (66) is present in the region of the fuel outlet conduits (68) of the radially outer valve element (36), and the fuel outlet conduits (64) of the radially inner valve element (34) begin at a central blind hole (62) which is formed on the injection end of the housing (30).

22. **(New)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 11, wherein the fuel injection device (22) comprises at least two coaxial valve elements (34, 36), and the annular groove (66) is present

in the region of the fuel outlet conduits (68) of the radially outer valve element (36), and the fuel outlet conduits (64) of the radially inner valve element (34) begin at a central blind hole (62) which is formed on the injection end of the housing (30).

23. **(New)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 12, wherein the fuel injection device (22) comprises at least two coaxial valve elements (34, 36), and the annular groove (66) is present in the region of the fuel outlet conduits (68) of the radially outer valve element (36), and the fuel outlet conduits (64) of the radially inner valve element (34) begin at a central blind hole (62) which is formed on the injection end of the housing (30).

24. **(New)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 13, wherein the fuel injection device (22) comprises at least two coaxial valve elements (34, 36), and the annular groove (66) is present in the region of the fuel outlet conduits (68) of the radially outer valve element (36), and the fuel outlet conduits (64) of the radially inner valve element (34) begin at a central blind hole (62) which is formed on the injection end of the housing (30).

25. **(New)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 16, wherein the fuel injection device (22) comprises at least two coaxial valve elements (34, 36), and the annular groove (66) is present in the region of the fuel outlet conduits (68) of the radially outer valve element (36), and the fuel outlet conduits (64) of the radially inner valve element (34) begin at a central blind hole (62) which is formed on the injection end of the housing (30).

26. **(New)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 17, wherein the fuel injection device (22) comprises at least two coaxial valve elements (34, 36), and the annular groove (66) is present

in the region of the fuel outlet conduits (68) of the radially outer valve element (36), and the fuel outlet conduits (64) of the radially inner valve element (34) begin at a central blind hole (62) which is formed on the injection end of the housing (30).

27. (New) The fuel injection device (22) of claim 18, wherein the fuel injection device (22) comprises at least two coaxial valve elements (34, 36), and the annular groove (66) is present in the region of the fuel outlet conduits (68) of the radially outer valve element (36), and the fuel outlet conduits (64) of the radially inner valve element (34) begin at a central blind hole (62) which is formed on the injection end of the housing (30).